

WHITTLESEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.ANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1944.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

In presenting my second Annual Report for the year 1944, under happier circumstances, I wish again to thank all with whom I have come in contact in the course of the duties of Medical Officer of Health for their support and friendliness.

Statistics which may now be given again have delayed this report somewhat.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W.A.D.LAWSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

S T A F F

Medical Officer of Health :- W.A.D.Lawson, M.D., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector:- J.J.Beresford, S.I.E.B., A.R.San.Inst.

Meat Inspector:- J.H.Poles, M.R.C.V.S.

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Laboratory Service and Ambulance Facilities the same as for last year.

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S T A T I S T I C S

Population (Registrar General's estimate)	8,073.
Area (in acres)	23,362.
Number of Inhabited Houses	2,387.
Rateable Value	£ 26,186.
Product of ld. Rate	£112. 13. 5d.
Infantile Mortality Rate	44.4. per th.
Death Rate	9.04 per th.

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V I T A L S T A T I S T I C S

		<u>Total.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	
Live Births.	Legitimate.	118.	55.	63.	Birth Rate per 1,000
"	Illegitimate.	17.	11.	6.	estimated resident
					population 16. 7
					Total for England and
					Wales 17.6
				(1)	
Stillbirths.		3.	3.	-	Rate per 1,000 total
					(Live and still) births
					0.37 Total for England
					and Wales 0.50
Deaths		73.	39.	34.	Crude Death Rate per
					1,000 estimated population
					9.04 Total for England
					and Wales 11.6

The crude death rate is a figure representing the proportion of deaths in or belonging to the district per 1,000 of the district's population. It takes no account of the age distribution as does the comparative mortality rate. However, as far as I am able to judge age distribution in this area is probably that of England and Wales as a whole and therefore the figure is a good index of the health of this community. Compared with previous years it is a very satisfactory figure.

SUMMARY OF CAUSES OF DEATHS.

Typhoid.....	Nil.	Cerebro-spinal Fever.....	Nil
Scarlet Fever.....	Nil.	Whooping Cough.....	Nil
Diphtheria.....	Nil.	Poliomyelitis & Polio-	
		encephalitis.....	Nil
Measles.....	Nil.	Road Traffic Accidents....	Nil
Diarrhea (under 2 yrs)	Nil.	Puerperal Sepsis.....	Nil
Influenza.....	1.	Heart Disease.....	18.
Suicide.....	1.	Bronchitis.....	4.
Diabetes.....	1.	Pneumonia.....	5.
Ulcers of Stomach.....	1.	Appendicitis.....	1
Premature Birth.....	4.	Cancer (all forms).....	14.
Congenital mal birth)		Intra-cranial vascular	
injuries infant died).	1	lesions.....	6.
Other diseases of the		Other respiratory diseases.	3.
circulatory system...	2.	Tuberculosis (respiratory)	1.
		" (abdomen).....	1.
All other forms.....	9		

TOTAL 73

The infantile mortality rate is 44.4 compared with 46 for England and Wales, and 44 for the smaller towns. When it is realised that the total infantile deaths is only 6 it will be seen that no useful conclusion can be drawn from this.

The following list shows the causes of death :-

Prematurity :.....	2 Male.	2 Female.
Broncho pneumonia.....	1 Male	0 Female.
Acute Capillary Bronchitis.....	1 Male	0 Female.

Infectious Diseases.

Regrettably the tuberculosis rate is high and this undoubtedly is attributable to the War. In spite of the general high standard of health, this disease has again reared up as in 1917 onwards.

Surgical cases are due to milk containing live bacteria derived from the the diseased cow. Often this disease in the animal is not readily discernable and shortage of milk has led to some laxity in supervision of herds. A good quality clean fresh milk is an ideal not easily attainable. Satisfactory pasteurisation is an efficient substitute. Admittedly many of us prefer the taste of raw milk, but with the young, at present, it carries undoubted risks.

It will be noticed that there has been a whooping-cough epidemic. The last being in 1941. The cases were not, on the whole, of special severity and serum vaccine treatment was used effectively by all the local practitioners.

The following cases of infectious disease were notified in 1944 :-

Erysipelas.....	2	Pneumonia.....	13
Jaundice (Catarrhal)..	1	Puerperal Pyrexia...	1
" (Influenzal)..	1	Scarlet Fever.....	9.
Measles.....	2.	Tuberculosis:	
Whooping Cough.....	118.	Pulmonary.....	6.
		Glands.....	8.

NUMBER OF CHILDREN IMMUNISED IN 1944.

	<u>1st Jan. to 30th June.</u>			<u>1st July to 31st December.</u>		
	Age Under 5.	5 to 15 yrs.	Total.	Age Under 5	5- 15.	Total.
(1) Children including temporary residents who completed the full course of immunisation in the Whittlesey Urban District.....	21.	9.	30.	25.	3.	28.
	<u>Under 5 years.</u>			<u>Between 5 and 15 yrs.</u>		
(2) Approximate number of children in the area...		570.			1,250.	
(3) What percentage of the child population shown in (2) were immunised between 1st January and 30th June.....		31.6%			82.6%	
(4) What percentage of the child population shown in (2) were immunised between the 1st July and 31st December.....		35.9%			82.8%	

Venereal Disease.

This is a County Council matter and this local authority does not obtain any direct information. Arrangements are made for treatment by the Soke of Peterborough (Dr. Rolleston).

Infant Welfare Clinic.

This is administered by the County Council.

Scabies.

These cases are sent to the Wisbech Institution for treatment.

Sewers.

No alterations or extensions were made.

Schools.

It is to be regretted that the governing bodies of the Senior Elementary Schools could not see their way financially, to set an example by agreeing to connect up to the town sewerage system. The case came to Court, and, although the Council lost, one could not but realise that the Bench showed very commendable sympathy with the Council, while the representatives of the Board of Education were placed in a very invidious position in defending the "pail" system. Incidentally, they saw the pail closets at a time of the year when conditions were at their best. Their suggestion that because the Schools possessed other faults as great or greater than that of which we alone, as a local authority, could complain, is to say the least naive. One wonders if private individuals instead of Queen Anne's Bounty had been the defendants a similar attitude would have been adopted. Now that the Schools have been taken over by the County Council it is hoped that something may yet be done if they are to continue to be used for more than a year or two.

Housing.

For new buildings the conditions are the same as in 1943.

In regard to existing houses there has been a great depreciation owing to the difficulty in War time to keep them adequately repaired and painted.

It is expected that some houses may be built in 1945.

Milk.

The greater part of the milk produced in the district is collected by the Peterborough and District Co-operative Society Limited, Midland Road, Peterborough, where samples are taken. The milk is pasteurised, bottled and delivered in the Whittlesey district.

The remainder of the milk produced is from the farms of (a) Messrs. C.A. Jacobs Limited, who bottle the milk at their own dairy in Station Road, Whittlesey, and deliver by retail, and (b) Mr. T.W. Butt, of West End, Whittlesey, who is a retail producer.

Samples of milk are taken by the Food and Drugs Inspector, the Inspectors of the County War Agricultural Committee, and the Sanitary Inspector of the local authority.

There are 38 milk producers registered. Of these two more have obtained licences as "Accredited" milk producers, bringing the total number of "Accredited" producers to seven.

Other Foods.

The Sanitary Inspector condemned a quantity of tinned milk, meat products, fruit, bacon and wet fish.

The Meat Inspector condemned some carcasses and parts of carcasses, and offals at slaughter houses where emergency slaughter is carried out.

Water Supply.

This remains the same as last year.

Caravan Camps.

At the three licensed caravan camps improvements were made.

(Signature) W.A.D. LAWSON,
Medical Officer of Health.

Date - September, 1945.

